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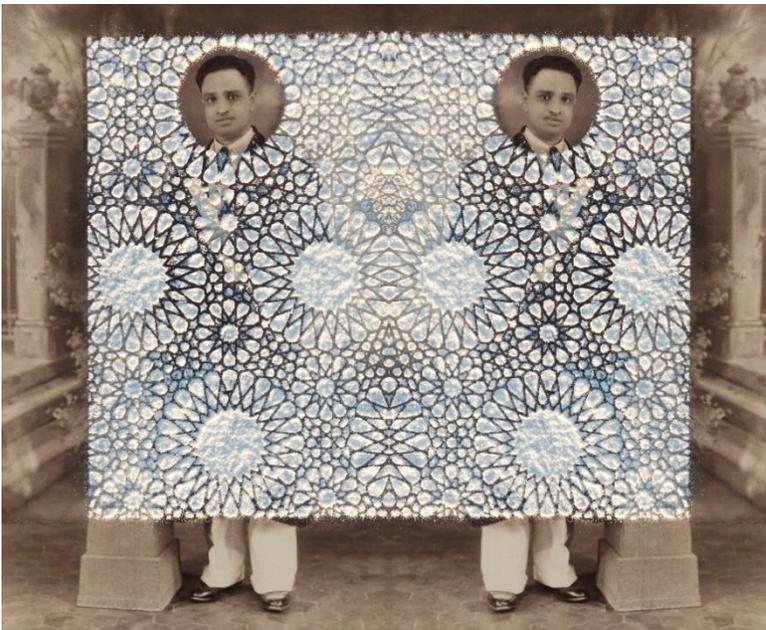
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**THE SHELDON ART GALLERIES TO SHOWCASE WORK BY FIVE ARTISTS
INVESTIGATING CULTURAL ROOTS AND IDENTITY**

ST. LOUIS, MO - The Sheldon Art Galleries celebrates its 20th Anniversary milestone season with *Re/Constructing Identity: Works by Zlatko Ćosić, José Guadalupe Garza and Miriam Ruiz, Priya Kambli and Rachel Youn*, from October 5, 2018 – January 26, 2019 in the Bellwether Gallery of St. Louis Artists, along with several other complementary exhibits focusing on the immigrant experience. **An opening reception is scheduled for Friday, October 5 from 5 – 7 p.m.** and the galleries will be open until 9 p.m. for First Fridays in Grand Center. The Sheldon Art Galleries are open Tuesdays, Noon – 8 p.m.; Wednesdays – Fridays, Noon – 5 p.m.; Saturdays, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. and one hour prior to Sheldon performances and during intermission. Admission is free. For more information on exhibitions, visit TheSheldon.org.

Gallery Talk: Tuesday, October 30 at 6 p.m. Zlatko Ćosić, José Guadalupe Garza, Miriam Ruiz, Priya Kambli and Rachel Youn will speak about their work and experiences. Admission free. Reservations suggested. Contact Paula Lincoln at 314-533-9900 x37 or plincolin@TheSheldon.org.



This exhibit showcases work by five artists who investigate their cultural roots and complex experiences around immigration and identity. Using photography, video and sculpture, they tell stories of exploration, loss, exile, fragmentation and reconstruction. Featured are St. Louis - and Missouri - area artists Zlatko Ćosić (Yugoslavian), José Guadalupe Garza and Miriam Ruiz (Mexican-American), Priya Kambli (Indian) and Rachel Youn (Korean-American).

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Zlatko Ćosić is a video artist born in Banja Luka, Yugoslavia. Soon after the war in Yugoslavia, Ćosić emigrated to the United States. His artwork relates to issues of identity, immigration, exile and the complexities of living in unfamiliar cultural environments. Ćosić's work spans a number of disciplines, including short films, video installations, theater projections, and live audio-visual performances. His art has been shown in over 40 countries, for which he has received a variety of recognition. The exhibit will include three videos, *Between Places*, 2018, a documentary that captures the everyday life while visiting his parents 23 years after the war; *Re-Birth*, 2013, which examines his feelings of displacement as an exile from his home country; and *Colorboarding*, 2013, which depicts a beautified ritual about the physical and mental torture he lived through on December 2, 1992 in Yugoslavia. His work can be viewed at www.zlatkocosic.com.

José Guadalupe Garza and Miriam Ruiz collaborated with local dancers to investigate longing and memory through *baile folklórico* (folkloric dance). Their contribution to the exhibit, *Anbelo [Longing]*, 2018, is a dual channel video that through photographs, real time footage and other ephemera, investigates displacement, loss of homeland, time and the attritional loss of culture experienced by the Latinx diaspora. Garza is an artist and educator whose works incorporate video, drawing, sculpture and photography. His studio practice examines ways in which histories and identities are continually constructed and reconstructed through cinema and popular culture. He earned an M.F.A. from Washington University in St. Louis. Garza's work can be seen at <http://sentiwere.org/>. Ruiz is an art educator, artist, and curator. She earned a B.F.A. from McKendree University and has an M.A. in Art History, Theory and Criticism from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. She currently manages school and community programming at the Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis.

Priya Kambli mines her family's photographic archive and uses the images in layered, patterned works that examine identity, memory, relationships, objects and place. Kambli was born in India and moved to the United States at age 18, carrying her entire life in one suitcase after her parents passed away. She began her artistic career in the States and her work has always been informed by this experience as a migrant. Kambli holds a B.F.A. degree in Graphic Design from the University of Louisiana in Lafayette and a M.F.A. degree in Photography from the University of Houston. She is currently Professor of Art at Truman State University in Kirksville, Missouri. In 2008, PhotoLucida awarded her a book publication prize for her project *Color Falls Down*, which was published in 2010. Kambli will be exhibiting 13 works from her *Kitchen Gods* series (2012-present) and three from her *Suitcase* series (2002-2004). Her work can be viewed at www.priyakambli.com

Rachel Youn, who is of Korean descent, uses sculpture and new media to poke fun at hierarchal narratives embedded in objects and lifestyles. Often sourcing materials from discount home furnishing stores and oriental goods peddled on Craigslist, their work collapses notions of authenticity and artifice through the lens of identity. For the exhibit, Youn presents photographs and a large folding screen, *The view from Jeju Island*, 2018, with images sourced from "walks" in South Korea using Google Earth. Youn has never visited Korea but used the mapping system to gain access to the landscape, recording "views" as a tourist might do with their camera. Youn received a B.F.A. in Studio Art from Washington University in St. Louis and has exhibited her work in St. Louis; Kansas City; and Florence, Italy. Her work can be viewed at www.rachelyoun.com.

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From its founding in 1998 to this fall's opening of six new exhibitions, the Sheldon Art Galleries have made their mark on the arts landscape for the past 20 years with some of the most unique, thought-provoking and diverse exhibitions in St. Louis. In this time, the Sheldon Art Galleries has organized or hosted 327 exhibits, and presented countless educational programs for young people and adults, which are offered free to the community.

The not-for-profit Sheldon Art Galleries exhibits works by local, national and international artists in all media. Over 6,000 square feet of the galleries' spaces on the 2nd floor are permanently devoted to rotating exhibits of photography, architecture, music, art and history and children's art. A sculpture garden, seen from both the atrium lobby and the connecting glass bridge, features periodic rotations and installations, and the Nancy Spirtas Kranzberg Gallery on the lower level features art of all media. The Sheldon actively supports the work of St. Louis artists in all mediums and features a dedicated gallery with museum-quality exhibits by St. Louis artists, past and present.

Financial Assistance for this project has been provided by the Missouri Arts Council, a state agency. Support is provided by the Regional Arts Commission and the Arts and Education Council.

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Image caption: Priya Kampli, *Dada Aajooba*, 2017, archival inkjet print, image: 8 x 7 inches, paper: 22 x 17 inches. materials: family photograph and flour.